



# Baltimore-Washington Conference

The United Methodist Church

## Peace with Justice Project Showcase

Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington, DC, identifies itself as an “Acts 2 Congregation.” Its Peace with Justice Sunday Grant initiative certainly attests to that designation. Foundry’s “ID and Walk-in Ministry” aims to prevent homelessness within families and individuals in the Washington, DC area. The guests of the ministry include adults and children, and it also focuses on walk-in services for clients following incarceration. The project’s emphasis is on the provision of clothing, basic identification documents, and hospitality services. Guests may be victims of abusive relationships and/or may be recovering from alcohol and/or drug addiction. The identification portion of the program helps clients obtain the documents needed to acquire housing, social services, transportation, job assistance, and other such services. Also, the program assures assistance to families seeking help in obtaining birth certificates for themselves and their children. The hospitality focus of the program serves to reinforce clients’ self-worth in a welcoming atmosphere experienced in a safe environment. This is quite a unique program, as it provides quality services to support clients’ efforts at becoming more self-sufficient. It does this by supporting their efforts to secure the identification documents they need to access various other services, in addition to the provision of food, hospitality, clothing, and other vitally needed items.

**From the Project Officer:** Example stories from the I.D. and Walk-In Ministry to show how the project helps change lives through the support of the Peace with Justice grant.

At the I.D. Ministry, we change people’s lives and show God’s love. “Celine” and “Manuel” are composite I.D. guests. We see “Celines” and “Manuels” every Friday morning.

“Celine” was referred to I.D. from a shelter for women and children. “Celine” looked to be a child herself. She had with her an infant and a toddler. While waiting to see a volunteer, “Celine” and her toddler enjoyed a sandwich (from Sandwich 1000), a snack pack, coffee, and hot chocolate. “Celine” needed birth certificates for her 2 children (when new moms leave DC hospitals, they no longer leave with a birth certificate) and a non-driver’s ID for herself. One of our volunteers explained the process to receive an ID and gave her a sheet with all instructions and addresses. Checks were issued for the birth certificates and ID. “Celine” also received a SmartCard to help with the full-day of travel necessary to secure the documents. Armed with birth certificates and her ID

card, “Celine” can access city services, secure an apartment and job and enroll her children in daycare and school.

“Celine” is lucky. The paperwork for her and her children was straight-forward. Not everyone is so lucky. The ID Ministry helped one man who had been working for 2 years to get the documentation for his ID card. We specialize in difficult cases. A pro bono attorney recently sent his client to Foundry to sort out his complicated issues.

“Manuel” speaks little English and comes to Foundry for walk-in services most Fridays to have a safe, warm place to relax. “Manuel” and his friends sit together and drink hot chocolate after they enjoy their Sandwich 1000 sandwich. There are newspapers to read as another volunteer plays hymns on the piano. Often, “Manuel” will receive a new set of clothes from our Walk-in clothes closet (which if you’ve noticed through the windows, looks like Nordstrom!), which he chooses. Every Friday he is welcomed to a toiletry bag and new underwear, razor, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and shampoo. If “Manuel” is in search of other services, he can check out the flyers directing him to whatever he might need, in both Spanish and English. If he needs emergency services, our hospitality volunteer is available to try find what he needs.

“Celine” and “Manuel” are examples of how God uses Foundry’s I.D. Ministry & Walk In to change lives and show God’s love.

To get more information on Foundry’s Peace with Justice Program, you may contact the Project Officer: Rev. Ben Roberts, Project Coordinator at [broberts@foundryumc.org](mailto:broberts@foundryumc.org). Foundry United Methodist Church, 1500 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036, Rev. Ginger Gaines Cirelli, Pastor.